

WEEKLY REPORT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

Week ending March 22, 2012

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Community Center

The Republican Club held their monthly breakfast on Saturday, March 17.

The Fountain Hills Theater held their "Broadway in the Hills" performance and fundraising auction on Sunday, March 18, in the Grand Ballroom with over 250 people in attendance.

The Fountain Hills Women's Club held their monthly luncheon on Wednesday, March 21.

The Lower Verde River Valley Hall of Fame held their yearly Induction Dinner on Wednesday, March 21, in the Grand Ballroom. There were 265 people in attendance to honor seven local individuals.

Senior Services

On Wednesday, March 21, Senior Services hosted "Places of Power" travelogue featuring inspiring and beautiful settings in Arizona. There were 19 attendees.

On Wednesday, March 21, we hosted a "Transplant Seminar" offered by Banner Good Samaritan Hospital. The presentation covered treatment options for end stage renal disease, as well as who is a candidate for living donation, paired donation, and non-living donation. There were 12 attendees.

Parks

Fountain pump #3 was installed on Tuesday, March 20; however, the contractor encountered some issues with the pumps operation and will have to pull the pump on Monday morning, March 26, and take it back to the shop for troubleshooting.

The fountain timer was out of adjustment by about three minutes. Staff reset the timer to Town Hall time and if the problem persists, staff will call in the installer to troubleshoot the clock.

The ball field light outages at Four Peaks Park were repaired on Wednesday, March 21. Ball fields #3 and #4 at Golden Eagle Park are scheduled to be totally re-lamped on Thursday and Friday, March 29 and 30.

Recreation

The **St. Patrick's Day Celebration** was held in Fountain Park on Saturday, March 17, with great attendance. The event was presented by the Town of Fountain Hills in cooperation with the Sons of AMVETS Squadron #7 and the Fountain Hills VFW Post 7507. Folks enjoyed Irish music, bag pipes, kids Inflatable bounce house, face painting, food, green beer, and of course the World Famous GREEN fountain, thanks to parks staff!

The Concert in the Park, scheduled for Sunday, March 18, featuring *Mosaiquito Flamenco*, was cancelled due to the bad weather and has not yet



been rescheduled.

This weekend's events include the Thunderbird Artists' **Fountain Hills Fine Art and Wine Affaire** scheduled for Friday through Sunday, March 23-25, on Avenue of the Fountains, as well as the American Legion Riders/Sons of American Legion **Charity Motorcycle Show** on Saturday, March 24, at Fountain Hills American Legion Post #58.

Staff met this week with representatives from ADOG to finalize arrangements for their **Paws in the Park** event scheduled in Fountain Park on Sunday, April 1.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Planning

The Board of Adjustment approved a Variance that allows a house on De Anza Drive that was destroyed by fire to be rebuilt in violation of the street side setback. The house was originally built in 1987 before the town was incorporated and was a non-conforming structure. The variance allows the house to be re-built in the same location as it was originally built so that it fits in with the existing neighborhood character.

The sign ordinance review committee has scheduled three public Open Houses to present the sign ordinance to the public. The Open Houses are scheduled for March 27, April 11, and April 18. The committee will ask for input and recommendations.

Staff has been informed that the previously abandoned Palatial Estates subdivision, located off Shea Blvd., has been purchased. Staff is working with the new owners to finish out the development as quickly as possible.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement has opened 49 cases so far in the month of March.

Several green pool complaints have been received this month, all of which are related to properties that have been vacated.

Staff had two recent complaints regarding flyers for businesses that have been left on residence doors. Town regulations prohibit leaving any type of solicitation, including business cards stuck in front doors, on properties in Fountain Hills. Several local business owners have been recently advised of this regulation.

Staff are working on a case related to an illegal home occupation. All attempts to gain voluntary compliance from the owner have been exhausted, so the matter will be turned over to the Town Prosecutor.

A complaint was relayed to Code Enforcement regarding a resident that was allegedly feeding wildlife. State law prohibits feeding of wildlife; however, birds and tree squirrels are exceptions to that rule. The investigation and evidence observed indicated that the property owner was only putting out seed for birds, so there was no violation. Although the applicable laws are enforced by the state (Arizona Game and Fish), staff try to discourage residents from feeding wildlife due to the potential hazards and associated health risks.

GIS/CAD

The GIS/CAD Division responded to a number of requests from the public and other Town departments. Projects included preparing six aerial site plans, graphic poster and banner design prints for various Town department projects and meetings, and four easement and one right-of-way acquisition exhibits for the Shea and Saguaro Blvd. improvement project. Staff continues to update the 2011 edition of the Land Use Analysis

and Statistical Report and also continues inserting the ongoing accident report log into Intersection Magic.

Engineering

Staff has issued the encroachment permit to proceed with soil testing on Monday, March 26, for the Fountain Hills Boulevard shoulder paving project. There will be no traffic restrictions; however, there will be safety equipment at the site.

CenturyLink will begin placing fiber on Palisades Blvd. and Avenue of the Fountains, La Montana Drive, El Lago Boulevard, and a small portion of Saguaro Blvd. Staff will provide more detailed information once we receive it from CenturyLink. Start date will be the middle of next week or later.

Cox Communications will be installing new facilities on Laser Drive between Technology Drive and the eastern end. They are also installing on south Saguaro Boulevard (alley between Laser and Saguaro). There will be barricades at the intersections of Leo and Last Trail, as well as Saguaro and Last Trail. The anticipated start date is Monday, March 26.

Review of the Fountain Hills ASLD plans (Ellman Project) is ongoing.

Building Safety

<u>Permits Issued</u>		<u>Applications Received</u>	
Addition/Alteration	1	Single Family	1
Electric	2	Tenant Improvement	1
Solar	1	Fence	1
Sign	1	Electric	3
Gas	2	Solar	1
Water Heater	1	Water Heater	1
Pool	1	Total	8
Fence	1		
Total	10		

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Finance

FY12-13 Budget Process – The final draft of the FY12-13 proposed budget document will be distributed to the Town Council, the public and posted on the Town’s website on or about April 1, 2012, as well as a link for citizens to provide comments or ask questions. During the March 20 budget meeting the Town Council received an update on the projected revenues for next fiscal year. Based on estimates provided by the Arizona League of Cities and Towns, the Town’s portion of State sales tax is expected to increase by 10% over the current fiscal year; total General Fund revenues projected are \$13.7M (8% increase) and expenditures are currently programmed at \$13.6M (8% increase). The Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) will receive a 6% decrease in shared revenues resulting in an additional \$261,000 in cuts to the streets budget. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings or provide feedback through the Town website.

Licensing – A total of 13 new business licenses were issued.

In Town:

DNJ Engineering INC. DBA Mechanical Engineer – 16443 Ashbrook Dr
Larry Rubino – 15820 North Eagles Nest Dr

Out of Town:

Scottsdale Collectibles – Scottsdale, AZ
Nahle Art – Mesa, AZ
Concept Unlimited, Inc. – Columbia, SC
Esther Fitzpatrick DBA Esther Rogoway – Tubac, AZ
Scottsdale Living Well Magazine – Saddlebrook, MO
Thomas DiPressi – All Fun Concessions – Chandler, AZ
New Bridge Electrical – Scottsdale, AZ
Desert Valley Mechanical LLC – Phoenix, AZ
Conservative Energy Systems Inc – Mesa, AZ
Tetra Tech Construction, Inc – Phoenix, AZ
Backporch Studio Alexandria Winslow – Oro Valley, AZ

Information Technology

The Town issued an RFP for a new phone system in February; five proposals were received for the Internet-Protocol (IP)-Based Communications Solution (phone system). The review process will narrow down the proposals to the top three who will then be invited to demonstrate their system. The current phone system at is aging and replacement parts are difficult to find. Through the implementation of a new phone system, the Town will be able to leverage existing infrastructure to reduce communications costs while increasing service to the end-user and citizens. The responses are being reviewed by Town and Fountain Hills Sanitary District staff (they went through a similar proposal recently). The recommendation will be presented to the Town Council during the April 19, 2012 meeting.

In the past two months the Fountain Hills Fire Department has utilized technology to rapidly respond to patients in distress; specifically, the patient is hooked up to a portable EKG machine that communicates with the Town server to transmit vital signs directly to the hospital emergency. When the patient arrives the emergency medical staff has already made the diagnosis and is prepared for the arrival. The role of the Town server is to send the data from the EKG equipment to the emergency room. This saves time that is critical to surviving a heart attack. According to our Fire Chief Fountain Hills is on the leading edge with this equipment along with Scottsdale Shea Health Care.